

The Honorable Bobby J. Hopewell
 Mayor of Kalamazoo
 241 West South Street
 Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007-4796

Dear Mayor Hopewell:

Thank you for your April 4, 2013 letter regarding the City of Kalamazoo's concerns about the Allied Paper Landfill portion of the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site. You expressed a number of concerns about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposing a waste-in-place remedy for the Allied Paper Landfill instead of total removal of the waste, and asked that EPA postpone its decision-making process.

As you know, EPA has not yet proposed a remedy for the Allied Paper Landfill. EPA is evaluating a variety of cleanup alternatives and values the City's input. Some of the alternatives being considered include for the site, including on-site consolidation and capping and total removal of the waste, and values the City's input. The Superfund program has successfully addressed many uncontrolled hazardous waste sites that lack bottom liners. On April 4, 2013 my staff provided you with detailed responses to a number of your questions, and will provide you with more information about landfill sites in Region 5. Be assured that EPA cannot select a remedy unless it is protective of human health and the environment.

Commented [GU1]: I think this is confusing as they never mention the lack of a bottom liner. They do mention unlined and unconfined, but I believe it will be lined and confined under the proposed stay in place remedy? Please clarify.

Commented [GU2]: Has this happened?

Groundwater monitoring data indicate that polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other contaminants are not leaving the Allied Landfill, and groundwater at the site does not flow toward the City well field. Therefore, contamination at the site is not threatening the City's well field. EPA shares your concern about preventing contamination at the site from washing into Portage Creek and recontaminating the creek and the Kalamazoo River. EPA is confident that a waste-in-place cleanup alternative, if selected, would ~~can~~ be designed to prevent such a problem.

After EPA's evaluation of various cleanup alternatives is complete, EPA will publish its proposed cleanup plan for public comment. The public comment process provides the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed alternative as well as the other alternatives that were evaluated. EPA will take your request to delay this process under advisement and will proceed with its decision-making process for the Allied Paper Landfill when prudent.

Commented [GU3]: Are we publishing draft FS first?

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact Richard Karl, Superfund Division Director, at (312) 353-9295.

Sincerely,

Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator